

Message Text

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67

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAJ-01 NIC-01 IGA-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

COME-00 EB-07 FRB-01 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01

LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 STR-01 CEA-01 DOTE-00 INT-05

OES-03 FEA-01 SWF-01 AGR-05 BIB-01 MC-01 /117 W

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R 121237Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5337

CINCPAC

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR, UR, VN, VS

SUBJECT: SOVIET AID TO PRG AND DRV

REF: A. MOSCOW 18390, B. MOSCOW 18319

1. PRAVDA (DECEMBER 11) CARRIES A TASS ITEM REPORTING
THE SIGNING ON DECEMBER 10 OF AN AGREEMENT OF SOVIET AID
TO THE PRGSVN. SIGNING FOR THE SOVIETS WAS DEPUTY PRIME
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MINISTER NOVIKOV, WHO HAD SIGNED A SIMILAR AGREEMENT WITH

NORTH VIETNAM TWO DAYS EARLIER (REFTELS). FOR THE PRG, "MINISTER" (OF UNSPECIFIED MINISTRY) NGUYEN VAN THIEU (PHONETIC) SIGNED. ACCORDING TO TASS, THE AGREEMENT CALLS FOR THE SOVIETS TO SUPPLY THE PRG WITH PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, FERROUS METALS, FERTILIZERS, FOODSTUFFS, MEDICINE AND MEDICAL INSTRUMENTS, TRUCKS, TRACTORS, AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY AND OTHER GOODS. MILITARY ITEMS WERE NOT MENTIONED. TASS SUMMARIZED THIEU'S PRAISE AND THANKS FOR SOVIET AID AND DESCRIBED THE TALKS AS TAKING PLACE IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF "FRIENDSHIP AND COMPLETE MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING." THE TIMING OF THIS AGREEMENT AND THE INCLUSION OF SEVERAL SIMILAR ITEMS TIES IT QUITE OBVIOUSLY TO THE SOVIET-DRV AID PACKAGE. THE SOVIETS SIGNED A SIMILAR ACCORD WITH THE PRG ON AUGUST 1, 1973 DURING THE LAST ANNUAL AID DISCUSSIONS WITH THE DRV. (THE DRV AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED ON AUGUST 14, 1973 BUT WAS ANNOUNCED "IN PRINCIPLE" ON JULY 16.)

2. A COMMENTARY BY VALERIAN SKVORTSOV IN PRAVDA (DECEMBER 11) DISCUSSED THE DECEMBER 8 SOVIET-DRV AID AGREEMENT IN STANDARD SELF-PRAISING TERMS, AND STRESSED THAT IN MOSCOW'S EYES THE WAR IS OVER. SOVIET AID, SAYS SKVORTSOV, SUPPORTS HANOI'S ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT; HE SPEAKS OF THE PROGRESS "SINCE THE FIRST DAYS OF PEACE;" AND HE NOTES HANOI'S PLANNING FOR THE FORTHCOMING FIVE-YEAR PLAN. SUCH EMPHASIS, WHILE TYPICAL, GOES SOMEWHAT FURTHER THAN LAST YEAR'S.

3. ALTHOUGH THE REPORTS OF THE AID ACCORDS AND COMMENTARIES DO NOT MENTION MILITARY SUPPLIES, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA AND IZVESTIYA (DECEMBER 11) REPORTED THAT SOVIET DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER KULIKOV WOULD VISIT HANOI IN THE SECOND HALF OF DECEMBER AT THE INVITATION OF GENERAL GIAP. STOESEL

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